



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter Styczynski et al.

Art Unit : 1615

Serial No. : 09/893,252

Examiner : A. Berman

Filed : June 27, 2001

Title : REDUCTION OF HAIR GROWTH

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Applicants are responding to the office action dated October 18, 2002.

Claims 1 and 33-48 have been rejected (1) for lack of enablement under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, and (2) for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

The two rejections made by the Examiner both appear to turn on a misunderstanding of the invention covered by claim 1. Applicants will first explain what that invention is, and also what it is not. Applicants then will address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 and 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 rejections.

The Invention Covered by Claim 1

Claim 1 relates to a method of reducing hair growth. The method includes two steps. The first step is to select an area of skin from which reduced hair growth is desired. The second step is to apply, to the area of skin, a dermatologically acceptable composition including an inhibitor of telomerase in an amount effective to reduce hair growth.

The discovery made by applicants was that the growth of hair can be reduced by inhibiting the catalytic action of telomerase, a type of enzyme. That discovery is embodied in claim 1 -- apply an inhibitor of telomerase to an area of skin to reduce hair growth.

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